

Decision

approving the opinion concerning the package of proposals containing the following:
Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions 'A Clean Air Programme for Europe' COM(2013) 918,

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants COM(2013) 919
and

Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council on the reduction of national emissions of certain atmospheric pollutants and amending Directive 2003/35/EC COM(2013) 920

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 67 and 148 of the Romanian Constitution, republished, of Law No 373/2013 on cooperation between Parliament and the Government in the area of European affairs, and of Article 40 of Decision No 11/2011 of the Chamber of Deputies on the working and decision-making procedure for parliamentary supervision of draft legislative acts of the European Union, based on the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon on the role of national Parliaments,

The Chamber of Deputies hereby adopts this decision:

Sole article. Taking into account Draft Opinion No 4c-19/93 adopted by the Committee for European Affairs at its meeting of 19/03/2014,

1. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the European Commission's prompt response to the EU citizens' requirement to have clean air, for the benefit of the current generation and in particular that of future generations.

2. The Chamber of Deputies recognises the relevance of the objectives listed under the programme outlined in the Communication and welcomes the progress in making EU policies complementary, at least in respect of environmental protection, innovation and energy.

3. The Chamber of Deputies would express its concern as to the feasibility of the measures concerning the sources of emissions to be taken into account by the Member States when drawing up national programmes, in the case of very small agricultural holdings, in particular in the context of a rural economy with low monetisation (as is the case in Romania), and would recommend that the Commission consider the possibility of a derogation in specific cases.

4. The Chamber of Deputies welcomes the creation of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency, and the role it has been playing as from 1 January 2014, in implementing certain objectives under the Horizon 2000 [sic] programme ('Smart, Green and Integrated Transport' and 'Secure, Clean and Efficient Energy'), and would emphasize the efforts of the European Space Agency under the Space Energy programme. The Chamber of Deputies would recommend extending the strategic approach under the Clean Air for Europe Programme to include such long-term EU actions.

5. The Chamber of Deputies would stress that Romania is particularly interested in secure and

clean energy and in reducing air pollution, considering the area covered by the declared Natura 2000 sites and the desire to increase the area covered by forests. For this reason, the Chamber of Deputies would recommend tighter coupling between the EU's objectives in respect of reducing pollution and those related to conservation of biodiversity and to sustainable development, and giving higher priority to the programmes administered by the European Commission under these objectives.

6. The Chamber of Deputies would express its concern that monitoring plants between 1-5 MW, as provided for under COM(2013) 919, might become an excessive bureaucratic burden, because recent technological trends in the EU and the world have made power plants between 1-5 MW based on innovative, much less polluting generation solutions to be competitive relative to conventional combustion plants. Very likely, the former will replace the latter in the near future. Therefore, the Directive's lower application threshold should be raised to 5 MW. As an alternative solution, the Chamber of Deputies would propose differentiated emission limits and/or reporting obligations for such plants, or repealing direct EU provisions applying to plants with an installed capacity of less than 20 MW and replacing them with national provisions to be adopted by the Member States.

7. The Chamber of Deputies would point out that the analyses provided for in Annex V to COM(2013) 920 on monitoring the environmental impact of pollutants, in particular in the case of terrestrial ecosystems, would be difficult to implement in Romania. Its large area and especially its fragmented topography, with a high level of geographical heterogeneity, would pose difficulties for the development of a network of representative collection points. The Chamber of Deputies would stress that this confirms that implementing EU Directives on air quality continues to entail significant costs both in respect of equipping and maintaining the air monitoring network and with regards to improving or maintaining, as applicable, air quality at national level.

8. The Chamber of Deputies supports this package of proposals, but would point out that the provisions on reducing pollution from medium combustion plants between 1-50 MW would generate additional costs for the Member States and the risk of adding unjustified administrative burdens, which should be examined by the European Commission.

This Decision was adopted by the Chamber of Deputies at the session of 1 April 2014, in compliance with Article 76(2) of the Romanian Constitution, republished.

President of the Chamber of Deputies,
Valeriu Ștefan Zgonea

Bucharest, 1 April 2014

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